WASHINGTON – The United Way of Central Alabama, Inc. has been awarded more than \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The grant came through the Office of Community Service.

"The United Way of Central Alabama, Inc. is honored to serve as the lead agency for the statewide Alabama Asset Building Coalition's Assets for Independence grant. This is a unique public and private, rural and urban partnership that enables low to moderate income families to acquire long-term assets such as homes, post-secondary education or small businesses.

This initiative builds family and community strength," Shirley Worthington, Vice President of Community Initiatives, said.

Michael Milner, local representative of the Federal Reserve, sees this as a "new and innovative approach to wealth building that empowers communities to save and build assets."

In congratulating the United Way on securing this grant, Congressman Spencer Bachus made the following statements:

"This program offers an opportunity for our citizens in the lower income brackets to acquire a post-secondary education and/or home ownership. Most middle-class Americans already enjoy these opportunities, but more often than not for our lower-income neighbors, home ownership and a college education are unrealized dreams."

"This is a vital program for helping low-income Alabamians move toward greater self-sufficiency," Bachus said.

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